



ICLA

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs



FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

2020-2025



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Strategic Plan 2020-2025

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Originally established as the Governor's Spanish-speaking task force through legislative action in April 1974. At the time its primary mission was to study the issues facing Spanish-speaking persons. The Task Force produced a report titled "Conóceme en Iowa". Two years later on July 1, 1976, the Sixty-sixth General Assembly approved and Governor Robert Ray signed into law the Spanish-Speaking People's Commission. Ten years later, in 1986, during an overall reorganization of state government the Iowa Department of Human Rights was formed, under which was placed the Spanish-Speaking People's Commission. In 1990, the Commission and the Division were renamed Latino Affairs.

During the 2011 reorganization the Division of Latino Affairs was renamed again as the Office of Latino Affairs.

DUTIES UNDER IOWA CODE

Like all statewide boards and commissions, the Latino Affairs Commission is balanced for gender and political affiliation and it's made up of seven Governor-appointed community members who volunteer their time to represent the Latino community in Iowa. According to Iowa Section Code Section 216A.15, the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs has the following duties:

- Study the opportunities and changing needs of the Latino population of this state.
- Serve as liaison between the office and the public, sharing information and gathering constituency input.
- Recommend to the board for adoption rules pursuant to chapter 17A as it deems necessary for the commission and office.
- Recommend to the department director policies and programs for the office.
- Establish advisory committees, work groups, or other coalitions as appropriate.



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2020-2025 PRIORITIES

- SUPPORT TO THE OFFICE AND COMMISSION INITIATIVES
- HIGHLIGHT AND ELEVATE OUTSTANDING LATINOS IN IOWA
- CREATE INITIATIVES THAT WILL ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF LATINO COMMUNITIES
- PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR LATINO PROFESSIONALS
- EDUCATE THE LATINO COMMUNITIES ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

COMMITTEES

- Legislative
- Education and Retention
- Community Impact

INITIATIVES

- Annual Iowa Latino Hall of Fame
- Annual Latino Day on the Hill
- FALO - Friends/Amigos/Les Amis/Os Amigos of the Office and Commission of Latino Affairs
- Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition
- Iowa Sponsors of Detained Children Task Force
- Latino Center in Central Iowa
- PILA - Association of Iowa Latinx Professionals
- Policy Recommendations



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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

INITIATIVES

- Focus on tracking bills that affect the Latino communities in Iowa.
- The **Annual Latino Day on the Hill** with the goal of providing a platform at the Iowa State Capitol for the Latino communities to hear from Iowa Legislators, Iowa Latinx youth, elected officials, and nonprofit organizations and learn about the legislative process, advocacy opportunities, running for office and more.
- **Annual Policy Recommendations.**

EDUCATION & RETENTION

INITIATIVES

- **PILA - Association of Iowa Latinx Professional.** Through PILA the Office and Commission will provide professional development opportunities and networking events with the goal of retaining Latinx talent in Iowa.
- Hands-on support of the **Latinos Can Coalition**, which is working on the Latino Post-secondary Education Attainment.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

INITIATIVES

- **Iowa Latino Hall of Fame.** Many outstanding Latinos have helped shape Iowa and many strong Latino leaders continue to contribute their talents and skills to improve the quality of life in this state. To recognize and honor these achievers and to provide visible examples for tomorrow's Latino leaders, the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs established the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame in 2017 .
- **Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition** - Mission: To use an inter-sectional lens to address the inequity of services, lack of support and space, socioeconomic disparities, and institutional racism experienced by our communities through education, advocacy, intentional inclusivity and organizing.
- **FALO** (Friends/Amigos/Les Amis/Os Amigos of the Office and Commission of Latino Affairs). This organization was created to raise funds to provide financial support to Office and Commission initiatives.
- **Latino Center** - The Commission will focus on establishing a Latino Center that serves central Iowa.

COMMISSIONERS



Marlu Abarca
Vice-Chair



Valerie Nolte



Jeannette Brown
Chair



Gilbert Nuñez



Lorena Gingerich
Secretary



Alfonso Perez



Caleb Knutson

OFFICE OF LATINO AFFAIRS

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